Drinking water programmes

†2346. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Mjnister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes formulated by Government for providing safe potable water;

(b) what is 'Sampurna Swachchhta Abhiyan' and how does it reach the villages; and

(c) the number of NGOs involved in the said programme in M.P. and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Water supply is a State subject. State Governments are primarily responsible for provinding drinking water facilities to rural habitations. Government of India supplement the efforts of the States in providing drinking water facilities to the rural habitations through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)." Annual allocations made under ARWSP are utilized for different purposes, namely, rural water supply schemes, community based rural water supply schemes like Swajaldhara and Sector Reform Projects, water quality mitigation schemes, sustainability related projects and calamity relief etc.

(b) 'Sampurna Swachchhta Abhiyan' or Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)' is a programme launched to improve the rural sanitation coverage with active participation of the community. It is a demand driven programme for generating demand for basic sanitation facilities in household, schools, community and public places by creating awareness of and bringing attitudinal changes for relevant sanitation and hygiene practices. TSC is sanctioned taking district as a unit and Central funds are released to the district implementing agency which could be Zilla Parishad, District Rural Development Agency or District Water and Sanitation Mission, who in turn releases funds to villages.

(c) NGOs play a significant role for taking up information, education, communication, capacity development activities and social mobilization at district and village levels. The engagement of NGOs is done by district implementing agencies only. Details of NGOs engaged by district

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implementing agencies in different States are not kept at Government of India level.

Wages paid to labourers under PMGSY

†2347. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the wages paid to the labourers working on roads being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) whether these wages are uniform in all the States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Rural roads is a State subject and funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are released to State Government agencies for construction of rural roads. Contracts for construction are entered into by State Government agencies. The Standard Bidding Document prescribed under the PMGSY provides that the contractor is to pay not less than the minimum wages as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Act empowers the State Governments to fix the minimum wages. There is no requirement that the wages sould be uniform in all the States.

New parameter to **define BPL**

2348. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to redefine the Below Poverty Line (BPL) in terms of parameters of land, housing, clothing, education, health and sanitation besides the earlier parameters, *i.e.* level of calories consumption; and

(b) if so, the details of proposed new parameters to redefine BPL people in urban and rural areas, separately?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.